

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 9, 2007. Claims 1 and 3 to 10 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 to 6, 8 and 10 have been amended, and Claims 1, 5 and 6 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,765,177 (Nakatsuyama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,933,599 (Nolan). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns processing a document file in pages. A document structure of a first document file is displayed in a display region in a tree structured form. An instruction is input to insert at least one second document file to the first document file displayed in the display region by dragging the second document file into an insertion position in the document structure of the first document file. In response to the input instruction, a menu dialog is displayed including a plurality of selection units corresponding to a plurality of insertion methods, respectively, wherein the plurality of insertion methods include at least a first method in which one chapter is newly generated at the insertion position and pages of the second document file are arranged in the newly generated chapter, and a second insertion method in which pages of the second document file are arranged into an existing chapter at the insertion position. An insertion method is determined from the plurality of insertion methods, based on selection of a selection unit from the plurality of selection units in the menu dialog. The second document file is inserted into the first document file on the basis of the determined insertion method.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claims 1, 5 and 6 are respectively directed to a method, a program and an apparatus.

Thus, among its many features, the present invention provides that (i) in response to an input instruction, a menu dialog is displayed including a plurality of selection units corresponding to a plurality of insertion methods, respectively, and (ii) the plurality of insertion methods include at least a first method in which one chapter is newly generated at the insertion position and pages of the second document file are arranged in the newly generated chapter, and a second insertion method in which pages of the second document file are arranged into an existing chapter at the insertion position. By virtue of these features, insertion of a second document file into a first document file using a desired insertion method is seen to be facilitated.

The applied references of Nakatsuyama and Nolan are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the foregoing features.

As understood by Applicants, Nakatsuyama discloses a document processing method in which a document part file is inserted into a document file, at a location indicated by an identifier. See Nakatsuyama, column 10, lines 31 to 37.

However, Nakatsuyama is not seen to disclose or suggest that in response to an input instruction, a menu dialog is displayed including a plurality of selection units corresponding to a plurality of insertion methods, respectively. In addition, Nakatsuyama is not seen to disclose or suggest that the plurality of insertion methods include at least a first method in which one chapter is newly generated at the insertion position and pages of the second document file are arranged in the newly generated chapter, and a second insertion method in which pages of the second document file are arranged into an existing chapter at the insertion position.

Nolan is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Nakatsuyama. In this regard, Nolan is seen to disclose that a Win 95 explorer displays a two-pane window

400. The left pane 402 contains a hierarchical map which displays the storage devices and folders in a user's computer. The right pane 404 contains the contents of a selected folder. In addition, the Win 95 explorer contains a command menu 406. See Nolan, column 9, lines 30 to 48.

However, Nolan is not seen to disclose or suggest that (i) in response to an input instruction, a menu dialog is displayed including a plurality of selection units corresponding to a plurality of insertion methods, respectively, and (ii) the plurality of insertion methods include at least a first method in which one chapter is newly generated at the insertion position and pages of the second document file are arranged in the newly generated chapter, and a second insertion method in which pages of the second document file are arranged into an existing chapter at the insertion position.

As such, even if Nakatsuyama and Nolan are combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action (assuming for argument's sake that such combination would be permissible), the result would not teach at least foregoing features (i) and (ii), nor would it suggest the attendant benefits provided by such features.


Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 5 and 6 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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Respectfully submitted,



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